

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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S E C R E T STATE 208878 TOSEC 100494

NODIS

CHEROKEE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), IS, EG, PFOR

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH SENATOR STENNIS

REFERENCE: SECTO 10235

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

1. I MET WITH SENATOR STENNIS IN HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING TO DISCUSS THE JACKSON PROBLEM PER REFTEL. I HAD TRIED TO GET AN APPOINTMENT EARLIER BUT WAS UNABLE TO SEE HIM UNTIL TODAY. UNFORTUNATELY IT CAME ON THE HEELS OF THE EVANS AND

NOVAK STORY OF TODAY. STENNIS WAS MORE INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT THE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT THAN THE JACKSON PROBLEM BUT LET ME REPORT TO YOU FIRST ON THAT PART OF THE CONVERSATION.

2. I TOLD SENATOR STENNIS I WAS SORRY WE HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO GET TOGETHER EARLIER BECAUSE I DID NOT WANT HIM TO THINK I WAS COMING IN IN REACTION TO THE EVANS AND NOVAK STORY IN TODAY'S POST (STENNIS HAD NOT YET SEEN IT). I SAID THAT

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YOU HAD SENT ME A TELEGRAM LAST WEEK ASKING ME TO TALK TO

STENNIS ABOUT THE PROBLEM OF YOUR APPEARANCE BEFORE SENATOR JACKSON. I THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT YOU HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO APPEAR BEFORE THE JACKSON SUBCOMMITTEE BUT THAT WE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO WORK OUT DATES AND THAT I WAS SURE SENATOR STENNIS WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR MIDDLE EAST TRIP

PLUS ALL THE TIME NECESSARY TO PREPARE FOR IT AND THE OTHER DEMANDS ON YOU HAD MEANT THAT IT HAD BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO SCHEDULE A TIME WITH JACKSON, MUCH LESS GIVE YOU TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE APPEARANCE. I SAID THAT IT WAS MY PERSONAL VIEW THAT SENATOR JACKSON AND HIS STAFF HAD BADGERED YOU UNNECESSARILY AND UNCEREMONIOUSLY FOR SOME TIME AND THAT I THOUGHT YOU HAD ABOUT REACHED THE END OF YOUR ROPE. I WENT ON TO SAY THAT YOU HAD ASKED ME TO ASSURE SENATOR STENNIS THAT YOU WERE PREPARED TO APPEAR BEFORE HIS FULL COMMITTEE WHENEVER THE SENATOR WISHED. AGAIN, SPEAKING PERSONALLY, I ADDED THAT IT WAS CLEAR TO ME THAT AT LEAST A MAJOR PORTION OF THE EVANS AND NOVAK ARTICLE TODAY, WHICH QUOTED EXTENSIVELY FROM A JACKSON LETTER TO YOU, MUST HAVE BEEN LEAKED BY SENATOR JACKSON'S OFFICE AND WAS IN MY VIEW A PART OF THE CAMPAIGN THAT JACKSON SEEMED TO BE MOUNTING ON THIS ISSUE.

3. STENNIS THOUGHT FOR A WHILE AND THEN SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR YOUR WILLINGNESS TO APPEAR BEFORE THE COMMITTEE BUT FELT THAT THAT WOULD HAVE TO BE IN ADDITION TO ANY APPEARANCE BEFORE JACKSON'S SUBCOMMITTEE BECAUSE "I CAN'T NOW PULL THIS THING AWAY FROM HIM." STENNIS WENT ON TO SAY HE WANTED YOU TO KNOW HE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THE INFORMATION I HAD PASSED ON AND THAT YOU SHOULD REST ASSURED THAT HE (STENNIS) WILL NOT GET INTO THIS DEBATE AND THAT ANY

PROBLEMS YOU MAY HAVE WITH JACKSON WILL IN NO WAY AFFECT

HIS OWN VIEW OF YOU OR HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH YOU. IN SHORT, I THINK YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT FROM STENNIS.

4. THE SENATOR THEN WENT ON TO DISCUSS THE MIDDLE EAST AGREEMENT, SAYING "I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I HAVE SOME
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DOUBTS AND CONCERNS ABOUT IT." HE RECALLED THAT IN 1954 HE HAD BEEN NERVOUS ABOUT SENDING TECHNICIANS (ALTHOUGH ADMITTEDLY MILITARY) TO VIET-NAM AND THAT HE WAS AFRAID THE TECHNICIANS CALLED FOR IN THIS AGREEMENT COULD BE THE BEGINNING OF SIMILAR UNHAPPINESS. I REPLIED THAT I KNEW YOU WOULD WANT TO TALK WITH THE SENATOR PERSONALLY WHEN YOU RETURNED; I ALSO EMPHASIZED THAT YOU WERE ANXIOUS TO BRIEF THE CONGRESS AS SOON AS YOU COULD AND THEREFORE

WOULD BE APPEARING BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TOMORROW AT 3:00 P.M. STENNIS SAID HE WOULD BE PRESENT FOR THAT APPEARANCE. I ARGUED THAT I THOUGHT IT WAS DANGEROUS TO DRAW VIET-NAM ANALOGIES FROM THE CURRENT SITUATION AND THAT IN ANY EVENT IT WAS CLEAR THAT NO AGREEMENT WAS POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE TECHNICIANS AND THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF NO AGREEMENT, WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST WAR, SOVIET INVOLVEMENT, AND ANOTHER

OIL BOYCOTT, WERE TOO HORRENDOUS TO CONTEMPLATE. I ALSO MADE ALL OF THE ARGUMENTS ABOUT THE POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES OF AN AGREEMENT AND WILL NOT BORE YOU WITH THEM HERE.

5. STENNIS SAID THAT HE CERTAINLY HAD NOT DECIDED TO OPPOSE THE AGREEMENT AND THAT HE STILL HELD AN OPEN MIND, ALTHOUGH THE TECHNICIANS ASPECT CAUSED A GOOD BIT OF NERVOUSNESS ON HIS PART. HE ASKED ME TO ADVISE YOU THAT

YOU AND THE PRESIDENT OUGHT TO FIND SOME WAY TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT YOU HAD BOTH BEEN RELUCTANT TO AGREE TO THE TECHNICIANS, BUT WENT ALONG WITH IT BECAUSE OF THE CONSEQUENCES OF ANOTHER MIDDLE EAST FAILURE. HE ADMITTED THAT THIS WOULD BE A DIFFICULT POSITION TO TAKE AND IT PROBABLY COULD NOT BE PUT AS BALDLY AS HE HAD PUT IT BUT ASKED THAT YOU GIVE THOUGHT AS TO HOW YOU MIGHT USE THAT ARGUMENT.

6. IT IS CLEAR TO ME THAT STENNIS DESERVES SUBSTANTIAL ATTENTION FROM YOU AND THE PRESIDENT AFTER YOUR RETURN. I THINK HE CAN BE PERSUADED BUT HE IS BY NO MEANS THERE YET.

7. LET ME SUGGEST ANOTHER THOUGHT FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION
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WITH REGARD TO THE TECHNICIANS PROBLEM. JAVITS SAID ON A TELEVISION INTERVIEW THIS MORNING THAT IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO DRAW TOO GREAT A PARALLEL BETWEEN VIET-NAM AND THE SINAI TECHNICIANS BECAUSE NOW THE WAR POWER PACT PRESENTED A DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCE -- ONE IN WHICH THE CONGRESS WOULD AUTOMATICALLY BE MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN ANY DECISIONS ON HOW TO INTERVENE, IF AT ALL, SHOULD THINGS GO AWRY IN THE SINAI. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT THIS, IF PROPERLY USED, COULD BE AN EFFECTIVE ARGUMENT WITH THE CONGRESS. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODEL, MEETING, ITINERARY, AGREEMENT, TOSEC, CAT-B, CHEROKEE 09/03/75, NO TEXT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE208878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LSEAGLEBURGER:ML
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: P840083-1052, N750004-0130
From: STATE SS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750987/aaaaczlu.tel
Line Count: 164
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: 75 SECTO 10235
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 OCT 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>; RELEASED <06 OCT 2003 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH SENATOR STENNIS
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, IS, EG, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: SECRETARY SECRETARY AIRCRAFT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006